

still go to work the next morning? Well I am proud to say that Quakertown has at least 50 of these extraordinary men and women, and we thank them all.

To these heroic men and women of station 17; thank you for your work, your time, your dedication, and your sacrifice.

**S. 193, THE BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT: CONGRESSIONAL MALFUNCTION**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the passage of S. 193, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I object to the passage of this bill because of my strong belief that in any legislative attempt to express disapproval of what some consider to be objectionable speech or acts, we must be careful not to infringe upon the Constitutionally-protected right to free speech. This legislation is an overreaction to the 2004 Janet Jackson "wardrobe malfunction."

I am a grandmother of four and I am concerned about what is making it onto the airwaves. I understand that many find the content and language used in some programs intolerable, especially for children. However, because I am also a strong proponent of the First Amendment and oppose inappropriate restrictions on free speech, I must weigh concerns about questionable content against the need to protect free speech.

I think we also need to be careful about passing a bill that gives "Big Brother" a heavy hammer to punish those who violate his notion of decency. I believe that increasing fines to \$325,000 per incident would have a chilling effect on creativity, lead to second-guessing of material, pulling programs, and other forms of censorship. As I have said before, we run a great risk when our legislation threatens to undermine both our Constitution and our creativity.

If we are serious about improving broadcast content, which is what I think people really want to do, then we need to address the fact that large media conglomerates are allowed to gobble up independent stations that are much more sensitive to the communities they serve. Large media conglomerates are the main sources of indecent programming. Since 1999, 80 percent of the indecency findings have been against two media giants: Clear Channel and Viacom.

Not only do they lack knowledge of local community standards, but they also drown out the diversity of voices and viewpoints. Our constituents would be better served if we were voting to limit the over-concentration of media ownership, not to increase fines.

While I do not support S. 193, I am glad that my colleagues agree that the even more problematic H.R. 310 is not the route to take. Censoring artists with outrageous fines and threatening broadcasters' licenses should something "indecent" make it on the airwaves would have caused even more damage to our First Amendment than the bill before us today. Regardless, I think S. 193 opens the door to future attacks at one of our Nation's funda-

mental freedoms and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

**RESOLUTION HONORING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LAREDO, TEXAS**

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2006*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the Ursulines, an order founded in Italy by Saint Angela Merici in 1535, were the first religious women to come to the New World. The sisters, who had been in New Orleans since 1727, were the first order to volunteer for service in the new State of Texas, establishing a long-held presence in the communities of Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Pecos, and Laredo.

Whereas, Mother Saint Joseph Aubert, one of the esteemed Ursuline sisters, at the request of Bishop Claude Dubuis, went to Laredo in the State of Texas with Sister Teresa Pereida to establish a convent and a school for the education of the young women in the City of Laredo in May 15th, 1868.

Whereas, the convent for the Ursuline Sisters was built on January 15th 1869, and the Sisters began to educate girls of every age and condition. This was the beginning of their contribution to the education of the youth of the City of Laredo, Texas, for over a hundred and thirty-eight years.

Whereas, the Ursuline Sisters established St. Peter's Memorial School in 1989, Ursuline Academy in 1940, and were a part of the faculty at Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary School, and Blessed Sacrament School.

Whereas, the new era of Ursuline education was begun through Ursuline Academy, which became a well-recognized center of education, serving as a college preparatory high school. Many graduates of Ursuline Academy went onto higher education, obtaining advanced degrees due to their excellent education provided them by the Ursuline Sisters.

Whereas, loyal to their Ursuline calling and tradition, despite all the difficulties and challenges of their journey, the Ursulines remained committed to their ministerial call in the City of Laredo in providing education to the youth of the City of Laredo until their departure from the City of Laredo this spring.

Whereas, at the end of their service in the City of Laredo for a hundred and forty years, the Ursuline Sisters of Laredo will be forever remembered for their educational commitment to the youth of Laredo, and their religious service to the City of Laredo. In the Spirit of Saint Angela, their founder, they will continue to be women of peace and reconciliation in our world today, living and working for peace through justice in all their relationships toward all peoples and cultures, and towards the earth and all creation.

*Be it hereby resolved*, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends the Ursuline Sisters for their religious service to the community of Laredo, and their remarkable history of providing quality education for the youth of Laredo, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. EDGAR AND MAGALI FERNANDEZ: 36 YEARS ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Magali Fernandez. For nearly four decades, they have been pioneers and leaders in the field of early childhood care and education, which is of crucial importance to our society and to every parent of young children.

Their careers have culminated in the establishment of the South Florida Association for Child Care Management (SFACCM), a non-profit professional organization which was established in 2000. On Saturday, June 10, 2006, SFACCM will hold its first summer institute, a one-day seminar for those seeking to become early childhood education professionals.

SFACCM, which is an affiliate of the Florida Association for Child Care Management, is a professional organization of education providers dedicated to ensuring quality in early learning through advocacy, education, and accreditation. Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez's leadership of SFACCM has served as an inspiration to countless other educators and has helped set high standards in early childhood care. Those helped by SFACCM's programs number in the thousands.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez have long realized the importance of early childhood education as key to success in adulthood; it creates a strong foundation for our society and helps families and businesses to thrive. Edgar and Magali Fernandez truly value the need for the quality care and learning that our children deserve.

I know that my colleagues join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez to our community and to our state. Their endeavors to ensure the quality and affordability of early childhood care and education are having a huge, positive impact on the lives of countless children—our most important national resource. Congratulations to them both on 36 years of caring.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2006*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, and 226. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the King (IA) amendment, the Kingston amendment, and the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5441, the FY07 Homeland Security appropriations bill.